

By: Bell

H.B. No. 1550

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to unemployment compensation chargebacks regarding certain persons who are involuntarily separated from employment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 204.022(a), Labor Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Benefits computed on benefit wage credits of an employee or former employee may not be charged to the account of an employer if the employee's last separation from the employer's employment before the employee's benefit year:

(1) was required by a federal statute;

(2) was required by a statute of this state or an ordinance of a municipality of this state;

(3) would have disqualified the employee under Section 207.044, 207.045, 207.051, or 207.053 if the employment had been the employee's last work;

(4) imposes a disqualification under Section 207.044, 207.045, 207.051, or 207.053;

(5) was caused by a medically verifiable illness of the employee or the employee's minor child;

(6) was based on a natural disaster that results in a disaster declaration by the president of the United States under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Section 5121 et seq.), if the employee would have been

1 entitled to unemployment assistance benefits under Section 410 of  
2 that act (42 U.S.C. Section 5177) had the employee not received  
3 state unemployment compensation benefits;

4 (7) was caused by a natural disaster, fire, flood, or  
5 explosion that causes employees to be separated from one employer's  
6 employment;

7 (8) was based on a disaster that results in a disaster  
8 declaration by the governor under Section 418.014, Government Code;

9 (9) resulted from the employee's resigning from  
10 partial employment to accept other employment that the employee  
11 reasonably believed would increase the employee's weekly wage;

12 (10) was caused by the employer being called to active  
13 military service in any branch of the United States armed forces on  
14 or after January 1, 2003;

15 (11) resulted from the employee leaving the employee's  
16 workplace to protect the employee from family violence or stalking  
17 as evidenced by:

18 (A) an active or recently issued protective order  
19 documenting family violence against, or the stalking of, the  
20 employee or the potential for family violence against, or the  
21 stalking of, the employee;

22 (B) a police record documenting family violence  
23 against, or the stalking of, the employee; or

24 (C) a physician's statement or other medical  
25 documentation that describes the family violence against the  
26 employee that:

27 (i) is recorded in any form or medium that

1 identifies the employee as the patient; and

2 (ii) relates to the history, diagnosis,  
3 treatment, or prognosis of the patient;

4 (12) resulted from a move from the area of the  
5 employee's employment that:

6 (A) was made with the employee's spouse who is a  
7 member of the armed forces of the United States; and

8 (B) resulted from the spouse's permanent change  
9 of station of longer than 120 days or a tour of duty of longer than  
10 one year;

11 (13) was caused by the employee being unable to  
12 perform the work as a result of a disability for which the employee  
13 is receiving disability insurance benefits under 42 U.S.C. Section  
14 423;

15 (14) resulted from the employee leaving the employee's  
16 workplace to care for the employee's terminally ill spouse as  
17 evidenced by a physician's statement or other medical  
18 documentation, but only if no reasonable, alternative care was  
19 available; ~~or~~

20 (15) was caused by the employer's reinstatement of a  
21 qualified uniformed service member with reemployment rights and  
22 benefits and other employment benefits in accordance with the  
23 Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994  
24 (38 U.S.C. Section 4301 et seq.); or

25 (16) was due to a reason that:

26 (A) constitutes an involuntary separation under  
27 Section 207.046(a)(1); and

1                    (B) does not constitute good cause connected with  
2 the employee's work under Section 207.045 for the employee to  
3 voluntarily leave the employment.

4            SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
5 to a claim for unemployment compensation benefits filed with the  
6 Texas Workforce Commission on or after the effective date of this  
7 Act. A claim filed before the effective date of this Act is  
8 governed by the law in effect on the date the claim was filed, and  
9 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

10           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.